

National Girls

# Connecticut Girls Collaborative Project

Coordinated by:

Girl Scouts of Connecticut



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# National Girls Collaborative Project

A Project to Support Girls' Interest  
in Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics



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# Why Focus on Girls?



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- ❑ Women constitute 45% of the U.S. workforce, but hold just 12% of science and engineering jobs in business and industry.

(National Council for Research on Women, *Balancing the Equation: Where are Women and Girls in Science, Engineering and Technology?* 2001)

- ❑ Only 20% of Information Technology professionals are women.

(AAUW “Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age” 2000)

**Women are this country’s  
biggest untapped resource.**

# Why are so few girls and women in STEM fields?

- Social roles
- Cultural models
- Lack of female role models

# What can be done to increase girls' participation in STEM?

- Give girls specific information about STEM careers and provide hands-on experiences.
- Encourage girls to take math classes in high school
- Challenge stereotypes
- Ensure girl-friendly learning environments

**Note: what works for girls also works for boys**

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# The National Girls Collaborative Project



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# History of NGCP

- ❑ Northwest Girls Collaborative Project in Oregon and Washington (2002-2004)
- ❑ From 2004 – 2007, the NWGCP model was replicated in five other regions: California, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Midwest Rural Urban and South Central
- ❑ National Girls Collaborative Project Extension (2006-2011)

# Current Regional Collaboratives

California  
Connecticut  
Florida  
Great Lakes (MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH)  
Kentucky  
Maine  
North Carolina  
Northeast  
Pacific Northwest (WA, OR, AK, HI,  
MT)  
Pennsylvania  
Tennessee  
Texas



# Project Goals

- ❑ **Maximize** access to shared resources
- ❑ **Strengthen** capacity of existing projects
- ❑ **Collaborate** to create tipping point for gender equity in STEM

# How Can You Benefit from the NGCP?

- Web site
- Program Directory – find resources and partners
- Professional Development through conferences and forums
- Mini-grants
- Monthly webcasts and archives
- Networking with other professionals who share common goals

**...go to <http://ngcproject.org>**

# What can you do?

- Enter your program in the Program Directory
- Spread the word about the CGCP
- Encourage STEM businesses to learn about the CGCP
- Join us in attracting mini-grant funding

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**For more  
information, contact:**

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## Next Webcast:

### **“ Inspiring Girls in Science and Engineering: Interactive Program Models and Resources”**

November 12 at 11 AM Pacific/2 PM Eastern.

Learn about two exciting programs focused on inspiring girls in science and engineering. SciGirls offers fun science experiences for girls across the country, based on DragonFly TV videos that showcase girls and women doing science. Engineer Your Life is a national messaging campaign designed to reposition engineering as a rewarding career choice for girls. Based on in-depth research and message testing, the project aims to meet girls where they live, promoting engineering through the lens of what matters to girls as they begin to shape their own futures. Learn about the program's free resources and how you can use it in your work and share with others.

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